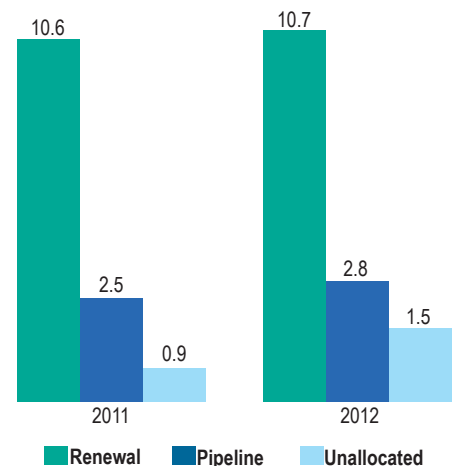
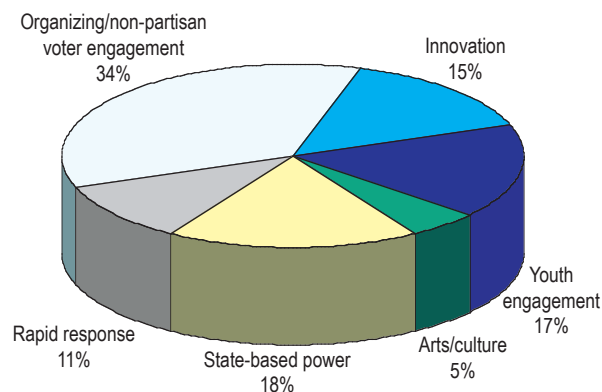
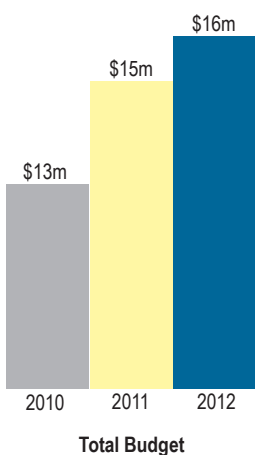


Democracy and Power Fund

The Democracy and Power Fund expands on OSI’s longtime support of efforts that inspire the participation of people of color, immigrants, young people, and low-income people in open society advocacy. The fund invests in multi-issue advocacy, organizing, and voter participation organizations that work at the federal, state, and local levels to expand access to democracy and build power for lasting social justice and systemic change.

Goals	2010	2011	2012	
Expand grassroots organizing, base-building, and non-partisan voter engagement Expand public participation and strategic issue advocacy through grassroots organizing, base building, and non-partisan voter engagement within the most marginalized communities.	\$4.2	\$4.8	\$5.4	
Develop innovative ideas and generate open society policy Support research, idea generation, and advocacy conducted by multi-issue policy organizations that confront poverty and economic inequality.	\$2.7	\$2.3	\$2	
Catalyze youth engagement and leadership development for the social justice sector Build a new generation of people of color and immigrant leaders through youth engagement, organizing, and leadership development.	\$3.1	\$2.3	\$2.5	
Support innovative use of arts, culture, and technology Inspire innovation in social justice advocacy through support for organizations that use cultural organizing, online engagement, and creative use of new media.	\$0.3	\$0.6	\$0.9	
Build state-based power Advance social justice in critical states through state-based issue advocacy and organizing where the opportunities to advance (or the threats to) open society are particularly significant.	\$1.7	\$2.4	\$2.7	
Rapid response	\$0	\$1.6	\$1.5	
	Grantmaking:	\$12	\$14	\$15
	Program Development:	\$1	\$1	\$1
	Total Budget:	\$13	\$15	\$16



Democracy and Power Fund in Context: 2010-2012

The External Climate for Reform

The collective hope that excited many people following the historic achievement of the 2008 election is long gone, replaced by a toxic cocktail of rising right-wing populism, public cynicism, deficit hawks, budget shortfalls, congressional inertia, a jobless recovery, and two wars. Compounding these challenges – and creating an “enthusiasm gap” among open society advocates and social-change-minded activists – is a perception that the president and Congress cave too readily and willingly to conservative threats. This is an extremely difficult time for grantees, made more so by the unstable world of non-profit fundraising in a time of economic uncertainty. If the Tea Party “movement” teaches us anything, it is that large-scale networks of engaged people can shift public will and reshape the public policy climate. This, albeit from a different worldview, is the hallmark of the Democracy and Power Fund’s work, with sizable funding targeted to expand public participation via community, congregation-based, constituency, and geographically rooted organizing and advocacy from people of color, immigrants, low- and moderate-income communities, and young people. This is supplemented by the use of arts, culture, and technology to modernize the best approaches of the past. The 2010 elections will have a dramatic impact on the public policy climate for the next two years, and the 2012 election could bring out all that is flawed with our democracy – corporate dominance, nativism, and racism – making D&P’s continued and significant support for non-partisan voter engagement of people of color, immigrant, and youth communities more important than ever.

Supporting the Field

In 2011-12, D&P will support the building of the fields in which we work (community, constituency, and congregation-based organizing, economic justice advocacy, youth engagement, leadership development, cultural organizing, and state-based social justice) via convenings that catalyze strategic grantee coordination, funder briefings to leverage increased open society investment, and responsive grantmaking to address unanticipated challenges and opportunities. Particular challenges for the fields in which D&P funds include: the need for modernizing grassroots organizing; building African-American, immigrant, and Southern organizational capacity; and sustaining high levels of voter participation.

Collaborating with Other U.S. Programs

D&P’s mandate is to help build the connective tissue between USP programs and priorities. D&P works as a thought partner with nearly every USP program or initiative, including: the Equality and Opportunity Fund (on economic-justice advocacy and immigrant-rights capacity), the Campaign for Black Male Achievement (on youth and African-American organizing), the Strategic Opportunities Fund (on cultural organizing, 2010 Census, and Southern capacity), the Transparency and Integrity Fund (on economic-recovery monitoring and post-*Citizens United* election reform work), the Criminal Justice Fund, OSI-DC, OSI-Baltimore, and the Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation. D&P staff also serves in convening roles for several cross-fund initiatives, including the Seize the Day Initiative and the 2010 Census. In 2011-12, D&P will do so on state strategies and redistricting.

Democracy and Power and Open Society

The Democracy and Power Fund advances open society through amplifying the voices of communities that are among the most marginalized in the United States and aggregating the impact of large numbers of engaged people to expand democracy and build power to advance social justice. D&P funds the development of people of color, immigrant, and young leaders for today and the future, invests in communities that do not (yet) have power in the U.S., and supports the strategic use of research and public education to build large scale support for open society priorities. D&P’s role as a multi-issue funder connects the many parts of USP and provides the glue that helps USP’s work add up to something that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Variations from 2010 to 2011-12

Increased grantmaking funds will enable the Democracy and Power Fund to deepen its grassroots organizing and non-partisan voter engagement work over the next two years.

Increased Flexibility Resulting from New Anchor Grants Budget Line

Four large D&P grantees will now be funded by the cross-program Anchor Grants budget line. This will allow D&P to provide greater funding for 2012 voter participation and to increase unallocated, rapid-response funding capacity. This shift is reflected in the decrease for D&P funding for idea-generation grantmaking; three of the four grants are currently housed in this part of D&P’s portfolio.

Increase in Non-partisan Voter Engagement

D&P’s grantmaking will increase by \$3 million (\$1 million in 2011, \$2 million in 2012) for non-partisan voter engagement in the 2012 election cycle.

Flexible Funds for Redistricting and Other Needs

Part of the \$1.6 million in 2011 that D&P is reserving for rapid response needs will be dedicated to redistricting. D&P will lead a cross-program effort on redistricting.

Goals	Lead Grantees	2010 Accomplishments and Program-Development Activities
<p>Expand grass-roots organizing, base-building, and non-partisan voter engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center for Community Change Democracia-USA PICO Interfaith Network State Voices Youth Voter Engagement Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted public education and grassroots field mobilization to expand healthcare access for millions of uninsured people. Drop-off in projected voting from people of color and young people confronted by expanded youth vote coalition and numerous grantees focused on people of color and immigrant voters. Built public will to pass first-ever domestic worker Bill of Rights in New York; will expand rights for largely immigrant women workforce. Organizing networks won support from Ben Bernanke and federal regulators to hold public hearings on Community Reinvestment Act modernization. Hosted successful “Building Latino social justice impact” briefing and helped lead funder collaboratives on voter participation and 2010 Census.
<p>Develop innovative ideas and generate open society policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center for American Progress Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Economic Policy Institute Roosevelt Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grantees provided critical advocacy on 2009-10 federal budget, winning sizable anti-poverty program expansion. Key research and advocacy conducted to confront the nation’s job-creation crisis through expansion of public jobs. Built public will for passage of the Lily Ledbetter Act, which strengthens pay equity protections for workers seeking to remedy discrimination. Built public will to win new Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to curb lending abuse.
<p>Catalyze youth engagement and leadership development for the social justice sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United States Student Association Young Elected Officials Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth advocacy groups abolished the Federal Family Education Loan Program, saving \$87 billion in wasteful subsidies to student loan companies over 10 years, which will allow funding for Pell Grant increases for low-income students to keep up with inflation. Hosted successful funder briefing for the Young Elected Officials Network, a group of 550 diverse elected leaders who advance open society at the local, state, and federal levels in all 50 states. Drove youth turnout for immigration march in Washington, DC, and advocated for reprioritized DREAM Act passage.
<p>Support innovative use of arts, culture and technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizen Engagement Lab (Color of Change; Presente) New Organizing Institute Voto Latino 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latino community’s online advocacy led to winning campaign to take away Lou Dobbs’ anti-immigrant platform on CNN. Expanded African-American community online capacity brought new energy – and impact – to criminal justice reform advocacy, including anti-death penalty and racial profiling campaigns.
<p>Build state-based power</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP Democracy North Carolina Texas Organizing Project Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted an extensive national research effort to identify a new state-based strategy to expand public participation. Launched in North Carolina and Texas, grantmaking will build African-American, Latino, and immigrant advocacy impact. Hosted successful funder briefing on strategic need to increase social justice investment in key states.

Continuing Challenges

Key challenges include combatting the rise of right-wing populism; confronting the projected drop-off in people of color and youth voter participation in 2010 and 2012; and expanding African-American, Latino, and immigrant base-building capacity in order to bring more voices to open society advocacy.

2011-12 Forecast

Strategies

- Increase funding for African-American, Latino, and immigrant advocacy networks
- Significantly increase non-partisan voter engagement funding through 2012
- Hold several grantee and funder convenings to enhance strategic grantee coordination and leverage new open society investments
- Serve on board of Funders Committee on Civic Participation

Impact

- Rising right-wing populism countered with large-scale public participation (through organizing and voting) that shifts public will and opens advocacy possibilities
- OSI advocacy priorities, including immigration reform and criminal justice reform, advanced through large-scale public education and grassroots organizing

Bridging the divide between Beltway advocates and grassroots groups outside the Beltway is a challenge, as is countering the Tea Party's anti-government mantra by expanding support for public investment to create jobs and strengthen the economy. Many grantees seem locked in "reactive" mode and are unable to reframe open society debates.

- Prioritize funding for think tanks that lead campaigns for economic opportunity, confronting poverty, increasing public investment, and job creation
- Support paradigm-shifting policy research to move public will toward systemic (and less incremental) solutions

- A new economic opportunity agenda expands economic justice, elevates the role of government, and confronts poverty
- Research and advocacy on the jobs crisis leads to renewed commitment to fighting chronic un- and underemployment of people of color and young people

The youth field is among the most underfunded, and groups that are providing essential leadership in key open society fights face capacity and funding challenges; this is especially pronounced for people of color, immigrants, and Southern youth groups.

- Complement college-age engagement with expanded support for African-American, Latino, and immigrant high school youth organizing
- Help build capacity among African-American youth organizations
- Serve on board of Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing

- High levels of youth engagement sustained on issue advocacy and voting
- Increased youth participation in open society advocacy priorities, including on immigration reform and criminal justice reform

There is a need to understand and replicate successful models for integrating art and culture into open society advocacy. Expanding online advocacy capacity for people of color and immigrant communities remains a challenge and a key opportunity.

- Launch new funding for organizations that integrate arts and culture into their advocacy work

- Art and culture increasingly used as means to advance open society and artists are better linked with advocates
- Expanded online base of social justice activists on criminal justice and immigrant justice

State-based social justice organizations in the South are underfunded and often lack capacity to advance short- and long-term change. Texas lacks strong in-state social justice funding and 501(c)3 capacity.

- Expand funding for building advocacy capacity, public engagement, and people of color, immigrant, and youth power in North Carolina and Texas

- Increased capacity for groups working in states on leading edge of U.S. demographic shifts
- Improved social justice advocacy climates in states